

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1924

24

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST SESSION
OF THE
Selma Baptist Association.

According to previous appointment, the delegates commissioned by certain churches belonging to the Alabama and Cahaba Associations to represent them in the organization of a new Association, assembled at Shiloh church, Dallas county, Ala., on Tuesday, October 30th, 1883.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder E. F. Baber, speaking from John ix:4.

On motion, B. F. Ellis was elected temporary Chairman, and E. F. Baber, temporary Secretary.

Letters from the churches were read, and delegates enrolled, as follows:

Center Ridge—Letter; no delegates.

Town Creek—J. M. FORTUNE, L. L. Pierce, and J. F. Ellis.

Bethany—E. F. BABER, W. R. Hardy, and H. W. Hardy.

Benton—Letter of dismissal from Alabama Association; no delegates.

Ruhamah—Letter; no delegates.

Mt. Gilead—H. W. Edwards, M. H. Traylor, and Jas. Bryant.*

Providence—B. F. Ellis, Lewis Johnson, and T. J. Ellis.

Pleasant Hill—U. J. Crumpton and J. R. Crumpton.

Sister Springs—Daniel Smoke and T. J. Campbell.

Shiloh—Miles Hardy, Jr., W. E. Clark, and P. W. Johnson.

Selma—Had obtained letter of dismissal from Cahaba Association, but neglected to present it.

[Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS; absentees thus *.]

The body then proceeded to permanent organization. The following officers were elected by acclamation: B. F. Ellis, Moderator; E. F. Baber, Clerk; H. W. Edwards, Treasurer.

The Declaration of Faith of the Alabama Association was adopted, as being in accord with that of the Missionary Baptist Associations throughout the United States.

On motion, a collection was taken of money for printing and distributing the minutes of the Association, which, with the sum sent by some of the churches, amounted to \$11.00.

The following committees were appointed to report at this session:

On Constitution—J. M. Fortune, E. F. Baber, and H. W. Edwards.

On Rules of Order and Decorum—L. Johnson, W. R. Hardy, and J. F. Ellis.

On Religious Exercises—W. E. Clark, H. W. Hardy, and M. H. Traylor.

On Time and Place of next Meeting—J. M. Fortune, L. Johnson, and W. R. Hardy.

On motion of Elder Fortune, the name of "Selma Baptist Association" was adopted as the title by which this body shall be known.

To assist the Committee on Time and Place of Meeting to make a satisfactory report, some of the brethren gave their views on that subject.

On motion, a committee was appointed to apportion to the churches the amount that we propose to give in response to the request of the State Mission Board. Committee—H. W. Edwards, L. Johnson, and Miles Hardy, Jr.

On motion of Elder Baber, a Committee on Temperance was appointed, consisting of J. M. Fortune, Miles Hardy, Jr., M. H. Traylor, with instructions to report to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, October 31.

Devotional exercises by Elder Fortune.

Elder Fortune made the report of the Committee on Time and Place of next Meeting. After discussion the report was amended, and the Association voted to meet at Mt. Gilead church, Lowndes county, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1884.

The Committee on Temperance, whose report was the special order for this hour, were granted a few minutes further time in which to present their report.

Bro. Johnson presented the report of the Committee on Rules of Order and Decorum. The report was adopted.

RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from their number a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall hold their office until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day, at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and, on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to the points of order in preference to the other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion shall say no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterward those in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question, provided he call some other member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates; minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, account for, and pay out all moneys belonging to this body, according to the instructions of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

DECORUM IN DEBATE.

10. When any member is about to speak, or deliver any matter to the Association he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid personalities.

11. If any member in speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order; in which case, the member so called to order, shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without any debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is to speak.

13. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending; in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member, choosing to speak, shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reasons excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall be always in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

23. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

Bro. Edwards presented the report of the Committee on Apportionment. The report was adopted.

THE APPORTIONMENT.

Your Committee recommend that this Association ask the churches to endeavor to raise the following amounts for the various objects of benevolence fostered by our denomination:

Town Creek.....	\$ 80 00
Bethany.....	45 00
Sister Springs.....	10 00
Pleasant Hill.....	75 00
Shiloh.....	40 00
Ruhamah.....	15 00
Mt. Gilead.....	50 00
Benton.....	25 00
Providence.....	150 00
Selma.....	500 00
Center Ridge.....	50 00

Total.....\$1045 00

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. EDWARDS, Chm'n.

Elder Fortune read the report of the Committee on Temperance. Remarks were made by Elders Fortune and Baber and Brethren B. F. Ellis and D. B. Edwards. The report was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

An immense amount of work has been done during the past year by the friends of temperance, and a great deal has been done by the friends of the liquor traffic. We are not doubtful about the issue of the struggle between these two opposing forces. The time is coming, and very soon, when the temperance army will sweep the field; when the liquor traffic will be driven from the face of all this broad, fair land of ours. Before that result is reached, there will be many assaults and counter-assaults; many advances and retreats; but finally, in the near future, the temperance banner will float in glorious triumph over our country.

This subject is having a very large share of the attention of our State Legislatures. Every Legislature which has been in session during the past year, has had under serious consideration questions relating to the regulation or prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

Religious bodies have been giving marked attention to the subject. Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists, in their great assemblies, have taken decided action in terms that cannot be misunderstood. See for example what was enacted by the General Conference of the M. E. church at Nashville: "Our members shall truly abstain from manufacturing, buying, selling, or using, as a beverage, malt, distilled, or alcoholic liquors." Then, they go on to declare that any member who violates these directions shall be deemed guilty of immoral conduct, and shall be dealt with as the Word of God and the law of the Church directs. See also example of our own Baptist State Convention. The latter part of the report on temperance, which was enthusiastically adopted by that body at Marion, reads as follows: "We do not regard the final issue of the struggle as at all doubtful, but the question which now confronts us, and which wants to see no cowardice or carelessness in our answer, is this: What part must we take in the struggle? Your Committee beg permission, in answer to this question, to say, that they believe this Convention, as a body of Christian men, who are citizens of the State of Alabama, ought to commit themselves to labor for constitutional prohibition as a final aim, and to labor for anything now which may be best in our respective sections, and which looks to State and United States Constitutional Prohibition." Total abstinence should be taught as a Christian virtue. "Woe unto him who causeth one of these little ones to stumble." We recommend that every church member should make temperance a part of his religious duty. The bottle is the deadliest foe to Christ in our churches and communities; more souls are ruined by the intoxicating cup than by any single vice in the world. Every professed Christian who gives his example to the drinking usages is a partner in the tremendous havoc which those evil customs produce. "If any man will come after me," said the Divine Master, "let him deny himself." And the great Apostle only clinched this glorious precept, when he said, "It is not good to drink wine, whereby my brother stumbleth or is offended or is made weak." On this immutable rock of self-denial stands the temperance reform. There the Divine Founder of Christianity placed it. With Christianity it is linked; with Christianity it will stand or fall; with the triumph and prevalence of Christian self-denial in the church is bound up the only hope of the triumph and prevalence of pure Christianity in our world.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE, Chm'n.

Bro. Clark presented the report of the Committee on Religious Exercises, as follows:

To Preach the Introductory Sermon next year—J. M. Fortune.

To Preach the Missionary Sermon next year—E. J. Forrester.

Elder Fortune read the report of the Committee on Constitution, and the Constitution presented was adopted.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This Union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of THE SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. It shall meet annually at such time and place as the body may determine.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in Union. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members above the first fifty, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the delegates from any church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by churches.

ART. 3. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the election of a Moderator, Clerk, and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, and shall continue in office until their successors are chosen. The Moderator, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall have power to call a meeting at any time and place, which meeting shall, when convened, have all the powers of a regular annual meeting.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as advisory council, assuming no authority, except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches; and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to promote the glory of God by extending his Kingdom of Grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel at home and abroad, and other means in accordance with that Gospel; to encourage the cause of education, and especially of ministerial education; to cultivate union and fellowship among the churches, and especially with those united in this Association.

ART. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this Union on sending up their delegates to any meeting with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

ART. 6. This Association shall annually elect five brethren as an Executive Board, who shall transact all business left unfinished by the Association, subject to the ratification of the Association; perform such other duties as may be required of them, all of which they shall report to the next session of the Association.

ART. 7. The churches in this Union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications, specifying the names of delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, contributed for benevolent purposes, statistics of the Sabbath School, and all other information which the churches may deem of importance.

ART. 8. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all funds thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over, through the Committee on Finance, to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and disbursements.

ART. 9. This Association shall furnish the churches with minutes of every session; the expenses of printing and distributing the minutes to be paid from funds contributed for that purpose.

ART. 10. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between churches, unless they have pursued the directions

contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, for individuals, and have not been able to adjust them; then the Association may take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and diliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 12. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 13. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular session of the Association by a concurring voice of a majority of the members present; provided, such alteration or amendment shall have been presented at the previous annual session of the Association. Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE, Chm'n.

On motion of Elder Baber,

Resolved, That this Association hereby expresses its desire to correspond in the usual way with other Associations, with the State Convention, and with the different Mission Boards, and denominational institutions of learning.

The following delegates to the State Convention were appointed: Lewis Johnson, H. W. Edwards, Harvey Hickson, Miles Hardy, Jr., S. W. Quarles, W. R. Hardy, E. F. Baber, W. B. Crumpton, J. M. Fortune, Jos. Swink.

Bro. Lewis Johnson offered the following, which was adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved, That we hereby tender to this church and community our thanks for kindness and hospitality extended to us during our session.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees to report at next session:

On Order of Business—E. F. Baber, R. C. Keeble and Lewis Johnson.

On Missions—E. J. Forrester, D. B. Edwards and W. R. Hardy.

On Sabbath Schools—H. S. D. Mallory, C. C. Graham and A. Edwards.

On Temperance—J. M. Fortune, James Bryant and J. F. Ellis.

On Literature—W. B. Crumpton, W. C. Ward and J. H. Hickson.

Bro. Clark, from Committee appointed to nominate the Executive Board of the Association, presented the following names of brethren to constitute said Board, which was concurred in, viz:

Executive Board—W. B. Crumpton, C. T. Mummerlyn, Lewis Johnson, H. S. D. Mallory and R. C. Keeble.

There being no further business, the hymn, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was sung, the parting hand given, and, after prayer by Elder Baber, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place before mentioned. It was felt that this, the first session, was a favorable beginning of the labors of the new Association.

B. F. ELLIS, Moderator,

E. F. BABER, Clerk,

Orrville, Dallas Co.

Collirene, Lowndes Co.

NOTES.

The churches composing the Selma Association (with one exception) having just withdrawn from the Alabama and Cahaba Associations, reports of their contributions and statistics will appear in the Minutes of those bodies. Center Ridge withdrew last year, and made full report to this body, as follows:

CONTRIBUTIONS—Minutes, \$2 50; as shown by voucher, to State Missions, \$22.55; Home Missions, \$21.25; Foreign Missions, \$11.00; Bible Work, \$6.75. Aggregate, \$64.05.

STATISTICS—Baptized, 0; received by letter, 1; restored, 1; dismissed by letter, 7; died, 1; decrease, 6. Number of members, 64. A weekly Sabbath School, with 6 teachers and 30 pupils; a weekly prayer meeting; a Church Mission Society.

The Association has a membership of 665.

DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Center Ridge..	W. G. Curry, Snow Hill.....	J. C. Yates, Minter.....
Town Creek...	J. M. Fortune, Pleasant Hill..	R. B. Hardy, Benton.....
Bethany.....	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	W. R. Hardy, Pleasant Hill.
Benton.....	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	J. C. Hill, Benton.....
Mt. Gilead...	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	R. C. Rives, Benton.....
Sister Springs..	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	W. L. Smoke, Benton... ..
Selma.....	E. J. Forrester, Selma....	A. J. Goodwin, Selma.....
Providence.....	W. B. Crumpton, Shields' Mill	J. F. Averyt, Orrville.....
Shiloh.....	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	W. E. Clark, Selma.....
Pleasant Hill..	W. B. Crumpton, Shields' Mill	J. R. Crumpton, Pleasant Hill
Ruhamah.....	E. F. Baber, Collirene.....	I. Ingram, Farmersville.....

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